



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.B

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Michael T. Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education, on behalf of Commissioner Pender Makin

DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to Extend Existing Approval of the College of the Atlantic Educator Preparation Program by Twelve Months

BACKGROUND:

The College of the Atlantic (COA) is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Spring 2020 to Spring 2025.

On January 30, 2024, COA Co-Director of Educational Studies Linda Fuller submitted a letter to the State Board of Education requesting a twelve-month extension of COA's EPP approval. The letter referenced the fact that while the formal vote to approve COA's EPP was backdated to Spring 2020, the formal review did not actually take place until May 2021 because of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. By extending the program's current approval by one year, COA will have had a typical cycle of five years between State Board reviews. For a small department, that time period seems "a reasonable minimum" period between engaging in the rigorous self-reporting process required by Rule Chapter 114.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on February 21, 2024, and voted unanimously to approve COA's request to extend their EPP approval through Spring 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the College of the Atlantic's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twelve months.



To: The Maine State Board of Education
From: Linda Fuller, Co-Director, Educational Studies
RE: Request to defer state review timeline
Date: January 30, 2024

College of the Atlantic would like to request a one-year extension of our program review date to May of 2026. This would actually line up at the five-year mark with our last review in May of 2021. The extension at that time was the decision of the DOE due to Covid. We suggested a virtual review in the spring of 2020 and then again in the fall of 2020 and the winter of 2021 before the Department settled on a virtual review in May of 2021. This went well and we were very appreciative of the flexibility.

Because our program is small in terms of faculty, staff, adjuncts, and candidates, the review process is a significant investment of resources, making five years a reasonable minimum between reviews. In this case both the program and the college will be undergoing significant personnel changes in the academic year 2024-2025, so an extension would also be very helpful as we work through those processes.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Fuller
Co-Director
Educational Studies

Cc: Caroline Fournier, cooperating mentor teacher